



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &  
CONDITION REPORT**



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service  
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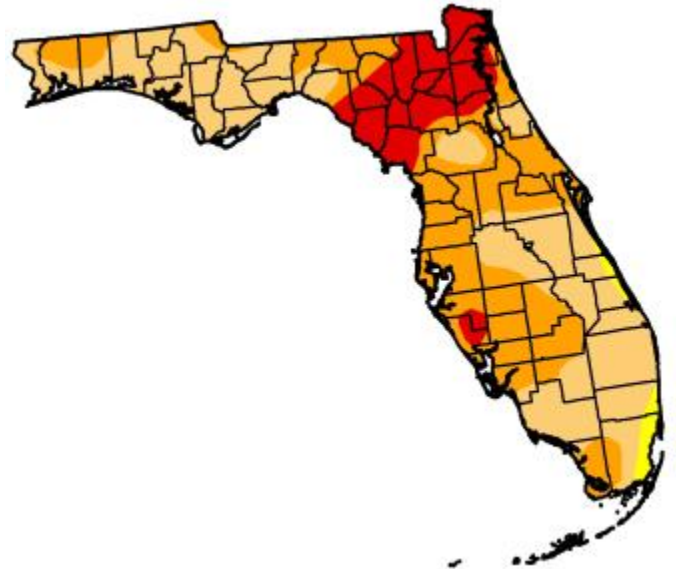
Released: March 26, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 25, 2012

**Corn Planting Well Underway**

**Weather Summary:** Virtually no rainfall fell across Florida during the week. Although it was often cloudy with humidity ranging mostly between 70 to 80 percent, the seasonally dry weather persisted. Where there were scattered showers, mostly at the week's end, it helped improve pastures. Producers would have welcomed more rain as preparations were underway for planting field crops, but dry weather this time of year continued as expected. At week's end, the topsoil moisture ratings were 6 percent very short, 48 percent short, 45 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. At major cities, the accumulated seasonal precipitation (since March 1) and year-to-date precipitation was deficit everywhere except at Miami. The heaviest amounts of precipitation recorded last week at the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations were at North Port (2.53 inches), Live Oak (1.72 inches), and Alachua (1.29 inches). Rainfall ranged from one-half inch to one inch at MacClenny, Indian River, Pierson, Balm, and Jay. Five stations reported between one-fourth and one-half inch of rainfall, and 22 stations recorded less than one-fourth of an inch. The U.S. Drought Monitor continued to show the driest areas of Florida to be in the counties in northeastern Florida and continuing in a band stretching southeast to the gulf. Another extremely dry area was southern Manatee County and adjacent land area in Sarasota County. Temperatures averaged 3 to 12 degrees above normal during the week at major cities. High temperatures at Florida's FAWN stations were mostly between 85 and 90 degrees. Low temperatures were above 50 degrees with most stations reporting temperatures above mid-to-high 50s.

**U.S. Drought Monitor: March 20, 2012**



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

**Field Crops:** Corn planting was well underway in most areas of northern Florida where weather and field conditions were favorable. Producers were making good progress with planting corn in Suwannee County. Also, producers were preparing fields for planting peanuts. Producers in Madison County were very busy planting corn, too. The warm weather was beneficial to the winter wheat growing area in northern Florida.

**Fruits & Vegetables:** Vegetable producers in southern Miami-Dade County continued harvesting winter vegetables. Vegetable growers planted watermelon fields in Suwannee County. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) reported vegetable movement included snap beans, cabbage, celery, cucumbers, escarole, radishes, eggplant, bell peppers, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. The USDA-AMS report that the supply was light for sweet corn, cabbage, celery, escarole, and some squash varieties.

**Soil Moisture Ratings**

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	11	6
Short.....	40	42	48
Adequate.....	49	46	45
Surplus.....	1	1	1

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, the pasture condition improved slightly, with most pastures in poor to good condition. The condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Drought limited forage growth. In the **Panhandle**, the condition of most pastures was mostly fair to good. Warm temperatures improved pastures but the lack of rain hindered warm season grasses. In Okaloosa County, some grazing came back early due to the early spring weather. The cattle condition was somewhat improved from the previous week. In the **northern** areas, most pastures and cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **central** areas, most pastures were in fair condition varying from very poor to good. Pastures improved slightly but were hampered by the lack of rain. Most of the cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **southwestern** areas, the pasture conditions were very poor to good ranging generally from poor to good. Scattered showers helped keep pastures green. Most of the cattle were in fair to good condition.

**Cattle and Pasture Condition**

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week (percent)	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Current week (percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	7	5
Poor.....	6	4	32	25
Fair.....	45	53	35	43
Good.....	47	40	25	25
Excellent.....	1	2	1	2

**Citrus:** Temperatures were moderate with highs reaching the mid-80s in most of the citrus region. Rainfall was light across the region. North Port received the most with 2.53 inches and four of the 25 stations recorded no precipitation. Most sites recorded less than a half-inch of rain. Drought conditions existed across the entire citrus region ranging from abnormally dry on the eastern coast to severe on the west coast. Drought conditions are from the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated Mar 20, 2012. The Valencia harvest continued to average over five million boxes weekly. Valencia bloom is heavy, other varieties exhibit varying stages of bloom. Cultural practices included discing, herbicide application, irrigation, young tree care, and limited hedging and topping.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	Mar 5-11, 2012	Mar 12-18, 2012	Mar 19-25, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	29	10	1
Valencia.....	3,761	5,313	5,305
Navel oranges.....	3	3	3
Temples.....	40	25	5
Grapefruit.....	1,116	1,003	759
Tangelos.....	1	0	0
Tangerines.....	118	85	42
Total.....	5,068	6,439	6,115

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